AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(previously presented):** A process for producing a saccharide having a lowered molecular weight, which comprises irradiating an electron beam to a polysaccharide fraction in a solid state at a dosage of d (kGy) which satisfies the following equation:

$$n = Me^{ad}$$

wherein M represents a weight average molecular weight (Da) of the polysaccharide fraction and is a number of 5,000 to 70,000; n represents a weight average molecular weight (Da) of the saccharide having a lowered molecular weight and is an optional positive number; e is the base of natural logarithm; and a is a number of -0.008 to -0.004.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. **(previously presented):** The process according to claim 1, wherein a is a number of -0.008 to -0.005.

4. **(original):** The process according to claim 3, wherein a is a number of -0.0075 to -0.0050.

5. (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide fraction to which the electron beam is irradiated is a glycosaminoglycan fraction.

6. (original): The process according to claim 5, wherein the glycosaminoglycan fraction is a fraction comprising at least one species of glycosaminoglycans selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, keratan sulfate, heparan sulfate and heparin.

Claims 7. -21. (canceled).

22. (currently amended): ~~The process according to claim 21, wherein the hyaluronic acid fraction to which the electron beam is irradiated~~ A process for producing hyaluronic acid having a lowered molecular weight, which comprises irradiating an electron beam to a hyaluronic acid fraction which has a weight average molecular weight of 600,000 to 1,200,000 (Da) and is in a liquid state at a~~; the~~ dosage ~~is~~ of from 10 to 30 (kGy); and the hyaluronic acid having a lowered molecular weight has a weight average molecular weight of 2,500 to 4,000 (Da).

23. (currently amended): ~~The process according to claim 21, wherein the hyaluronic acid fraction to which the electron beam is irradiated~~ A process for producing hyaluronic acid having a lowered molecular weight, which comprises irradiating an electron

beam to a hyaluronic acid fraction which has a weight average molecular weight of 600,000 to 1,200,000 (Da) and is in a liquid state at a~~; the~~ dosage ~~is~~ of from 30 to 50 (kGy); and the hyaluronic acid having a lowered molecular weight has a weight average molecular weight of 1,700 to 2,500 (Da).

24. (currently amended): ~~The process according to claim 21, wherein the hyaluronic acid fraction to which the electron beam is irradiated~~ A process for producing hyaluronic acid having a lowered molecular weight, which comprises irradiating an electron beam to a hyaluronic acid fraction which has a weight average molecular weight of 600,000 to 1,200,000 (Da) and is in a liquid state at a~~; the~~ dosage ~~is~~of from 50 to 80 (kGy); and the hyaluronic acid having a lowered molecular weight has a weight average molecular weight of 1,300 to 1,700 (Da).

Claims 25 - 36 (canceled).